

DISTRICT #4 & #5 MACo MEETING
JUNE 05, 2007
CHOTEAU COUNTY CLUB
CHOTEAU, MT 59422

PRESENT: Teton County Commissioners Arnold Gettel, R.F. Sam Carlson, and Joe Dellwo; Cascade County Commissioners Peggy Beltrone and Lance Olson; Pondera County Commissioners Sandy Broesder, Joe Christiaens, and Cynthia Johnson, Blaine County Commissioners Vic Miller, Dolores Plumage, and Don K. Swenson; Liberty County Commissioners Russ Tempel and Larry Hendrickson; Toole County Commissioners Dave Miller, Allen Underdal, and Ben Ober; Chouteau County Commissioners Harvey W. Worrall and James O'Hara; Hill County Commissioners Michael Wendland and Mike Anderson; MACo Representatives Harold Blattie, and Sheryl Wood; Toole County Clerk & Recorder Mary Ann Harwood; Pondera County Clerk & Recorder Janice Hoppes; Teton County Clerk & Recorder Paula Jaconetty; Scott Bradford-MT DOA/ITSD/PSSB; Brent C. Smith, Diana Allen, and Karen Horn representing the Forest Service; Pondera County Road Foreman John Stokes; Carbon County Commissioner, and MACo President John Prinkki; Janet Kenny and Wayne Noem representing MDOT, Jane Jelinski-MSU Local Government Center, Gary Williams-DNRC

District 5 Chairman Arnold Gettel called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Chairman Gettel requested everyone to introduce themselves and state who they are representing.

R. F. Sam Carlson moved to approve the August 23, 2006 minutes, Ben Ober seconded; motion carried.

MACo Executive Director Harold Blattie presented the MACO 2008 preliminary budget. Copies of the 2007-2008 MACo preliminary budget were available for everyone in attendance. Harold explained MACo was going to purchase some computers, equipment and office furniture in the 2007 budget. This will leave about \$7,000-\$8,000 in excess funds and not the deficit that was previously projected for the 2007 Budget. Harold commented on the MACo MT Silversmith's pin sales. They have an inventory of \$1,800 and this is held in a separate account to follow the sales. A reserve of \$10,000 is carried on the books for a health insurance cushion in case of an increase of premiums. This will be eliminated for FY 2008. Harold explained the new line in the budget for a Database Coordinator to manage the Risk Management Software for the Insurance Trusts. Harold explained the budget committee met twice and the objective was to have the anticipated expenses below the anticipated revenues. The salary line figures are calculated with COLA added. Harold had posed the question to the budget committee on should the membership dues be raised gradually by adding a COLA adjustment, or stay at the present level until they must have a large raise? The Budget Committee proposed an increase in the Member dues by adding a COLA adjustment for this year. Allan Underdal, Chair of the MACo Tax, Finance and Budget Committee stated that the revenue side is looking for increases by recruiting new sponsors and Associate and Affiliate members. Underdal asked for names of businesses and agencies that could be approached to be prospective new members or sponsors..

MACo Associate Director Sheryl Wood explained the new Affiliate and Associate membership programs. Affiliate members would be governmental or non-profit entities, where the Associate members would be businesses.

Forest Service Representative Diana Allen talked about the change in fire management. With the new implementation appropriate management response will be used for the best management strategy. The different types of fire management were explained. The Forest Service sent out Fire Wildlife Protection Plans to the counties and compiled a fire management strategy on the returned responses from the counties. If there are a lot of fires this season, the fires will be prioritized but all fires will be managed. Lance Olson stated that Cascade County is redoing the fire suppression in subdivisions and stated that water supply is a big issue. Harold Blattie stated three areas of concern; ingress and egress, defensible space, and fire resistant roofing and siding. These issues need to be addressed by the governing body in zoning codes, building codes, and subdivision regulations. Russ of the Forest Service explained how the 2006 Cigarette Rock Fire was started and what management strategy the Forest Service implemented. Karen Horn explained how the Forest Service has worked with all the counties, fire departments, and the State. With all agencies working together the burns have been kept manageable. Russ Temple asked why the Forest Service does not sell the timber instead of a controlled burn. It was explained the permit process for the sale of the timber takes an exceptional amount of time.

Jane Jelinski, MSU Local Government Center explained what publications will be available for sale through MACo. Jane also explained the Interoperability Project and the work being done on the communications system, and how eventually any agency in the state will be able to contact any city, any sheriff, or even the Air Force.

Scott Bradford-Public Safety Services Bureau presented an extensive power point on the role of the Public Safety Services in the Interoperability of Montana Project. Peggy Beltrone asked what was being done on working with the interpersonal relationship with the tribal agencies with other agencies. Scott stated that they are working on this issue. Jane Jelinski stated that the State is working on the human side of these issues and that relationships can be built between agencies.

Scott also presented the updates on the 9-1-1 Program. 9-1-1 fees are charged at \$.50 per phone per month. This year the Legislature has authorized a \$.50 per wireless number for wireless enhanced 9-1-1. Scott stated that if there were any questions to contact Becky Berger.

Chairman Arnold Gettel adjourned the meeting for lunch.

Chairman Gettel resumed the meeting at 12:35 p.m. and opened up nominations for District 4 chair. Vic Miller nominated Harvey Worrall. Don Swenson nominated Wes Temple for vice chair. Harvey was voted in for District Chair and Wes for Vice Chair.

Vic Miller made a motion to have these offices for District 4 & 5 as two-year terms, R.F. Sam Carlson seconded; motion carried.

Harvey Worrall opened nominations for District 5 chair. Ben Ober nominated Arnold Gettel, Sandy Broesder seconded. Allan Underdal nominated Ben Ober for vice chair, R.F. Sam Carlson seconded. Peggy Beltrone nominated Lance Olson for vice chair. By a show of hands Ben Ober was elected Vice Chair of District 5.

Russ Temple nominated Vic Miller for MACo 2nd Vice-President, R.F. Sam Carlson seconded. Lance Olson nominated Joe Briggs for MACo 2nd Vice-President, Mike Anderson seconded.

Cynthia Johnson nominated Allan Underdal as the MACo Fiscal Officer, Ben Ober seconded.

John Prinkki presented a Board of Directors report.

Harold Blattie presented the Legislative Report stating this was one of the hardest Legislative sessions that he has been involved with. Harold gave an overview and supplied a handout of the all the bills that were submitted and which ones passed.

Sheryl Wood discussed more of the bills that MACo requested and bills that passed that would affect the counties. Sheryl reported on the special session stating the counties were not affected by the bills that were passed.

Harold Blattie reported on Interim Committee activities. He reported that MACo put extra money in the travel budget for counties to follow the interim committees. Harold and Sheryl cannot follow all of the activities and ask for county involvement.

Sheryl reported on the 2010 census and that it is very important that the counties become involved in the process. A handout was made available for those in attendance. MACo will work with the counties.

A report was given by Sheryl on the NACo/MACo Prescription Drug Card Program.

Harold Blattie reported on Correctional Risk Services, Inc. Harold stated that counties can purchase a major medical insurance plan for inmates.

The Nationwide Retirement Solutions will have two representatives for the State of Montana and Harold stated that this will make it a lot better on getting counties enrolled and support for the already enrolled clients.

A handout was made available on the Clean Water Act. Harold stated that local governments will bear a heavier burden as this could have potential impact on grading roads, fixing culverts, mosquito control, and construction projects. Local governments efforts to carry out maintenance of government owned buildings could also be impacted.

The District Court Council completed a District Court Judicial Workload Assessment Study. It is determined that we are short district court judges and in the next 18 months they will work with individual counties and decide on specific requests for additional judges and staff.

Harold reported that the Joint Powers Insurance Authority has been having an issue with people falling into the garbage containers, and significant claims have been paid out for this. MACo will be hosting a meeting and is encouraging a member from each county to attend for input on making the sites safe.

John Prinkki thanked Sheryl, Harold, and the MACo staff for all they do and the extensive attendance at the Legislature. Those in attendance added to the "Thank You".

Janet Kenny-Planning for MDOT explained that the MDOT is required by law to meet with the commissioners. Jane explained the draft STIP, and how it allows the projects to be done by MDOT. The final version should be completed in the next two weeks.

Wayne Noem-MDOT presented the projects for approved funding for the coming year to the attending counties. Wayne reported on emergency projects especially on secondary highways and how the only funding they may have is from the counties. He is requesting suggestions of how to handle the funding of emergency projects. The bridges that are on the prioritized list for the next year were presented. The Forest Road has two projects in District 4 and 5. One is the Teton River Road and one in Lewis and Clark County. The preliminary work will begin in 2008.

Gary Williams-DNRC reported on the legislation of fire fighters liability in SB404. SB147 explains the authorized restrictions on fire hazard area activities and what authority the commissioners may have. Gary reported on SB51, which revises land use laws concerning fire and wildfires. SB145, which revises wildfire protection laws, was discussed. The DNRC will continue the County Co-Op Program.

Harvey Worrall asked for any further questions from the floor. Russ Temple inquired about the On-Track Safety Program. Harold Blattie explained that a county can chose to have a registered agent for Risk Management and pay either a 3% or 6% agents commission, which will be added to the premium. If counties choose to utilize a MACo Loss Control Specialist, there is no additional cost and members will still be entitled to all the Risk Management services.

District 4 Chair Harvey Worrall adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula J. Jaconetty
Teton County Clerk & Recorder